

Grade 7 English Language Arts

Week of October 5 – October 9

Lesson 1: Character Traits

Rikki Tikki Tavi

In this lesson, you will learn how to determine a character's traits by examining evidence from the text.

How do Rikki's actions reveal his character?

In this lesson, you will learn how to determine a character's traits by examining his/her actions across a text.



Let's Review

"Rikki Tikki Tavi"

This the story of the great war that Rikki-tikki-tavi fought single-handed, through the bath-rooms of the big bungalow in Segowlee cantonment. Darzee, the tailor-bird helped him, and Chuchundra, the muskrat, who never comes out into the middle of the floor, but always creeps round by the wall, gave him advice, but Rikki-tikki did the real fighting.

Introduced to 3 characters at the beginning:

- Rikki-tikki-tavi
- Darzee, the tailor-bird
- Chuchundra, the muskrat

LEARN  ZILLION

Core Lesson

1. List the characters actions across a text.
2. Analyze the actions and ask, "What do these say about the character?"
3. Use this analysis to determine the character's traits.

Core Lesson

1 List the main character's actions across a text.

It is the hardest thing in the world to frighten a mongoose, because he is eaten up from nose to tail with curiosity. The motto of all the mongoose family is, "Run and find out"; and Rikki-tikki was a true mongoose. He looked at the cotton-wool, decided that it was not good to eat, **ran all round the table, sat up and put his fur in order, scratched himself, and jumped on the small boy's shoulder.**

"Don't be frightened, Teddy," said his father. "That's his way of making friends."

- ran all round the table
- sat up and put his fur in order
- scratched himself
- jumped on the boy's shoulder

Core Lesson

2 Analyze the actions and ask, "What do these say about the character?"

Rikki's actions:

- ran all round the table
- sat up and put his fur in order
- scratched himself
- jumped on the boys' shoulder

Rikki showing his playful side.

He likes his fur to be neat.

"That's his way of making friends."

Core Lesson

1 List the main character's actions across a text.

Rikki-tikki felt his eyes growing red and hot (when a mongoose's eyes grow red, he is angry), and he sat back on his tail and hind legs like a little kangaroo, and looked all around him, and chattered with rage. But Nag and Nagaina had disappeared into the grass. When a snake misses its stroke, it never says anything or gives any sign of what it means to do next. Rikki-tikki did not care to follow them for he did not feel sure that he could manage two snakes at once. So he trotted off to the gravel path near the house, and sat down to think. It was a serious matter for him.

Rikki's actions:

- eyes grew red and hot
- sat back on tail and hind legs
- chattered with rage
- didn't follow Nag and Nagaina
- trotted off
- sat down to think

LEARN  ZILLION

Core Lesson

2 Analyze the actions and ask, "What do these say about the character?"

Rikki's actions:

- eyes grew red and hot
- sat back on tail and hind legs
- chattered with rage
- didn't follow Nag and Nagaina
- trotted off
- sat down to think

("when a mongoose's eyes grow red, he is angry")

Rikki sits back and makes noise to show even greater anger.

Rikki leaves and takes time to think.

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Core Lesson

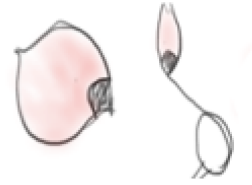
3 Use this analysis to determine the character's traits.



Playful



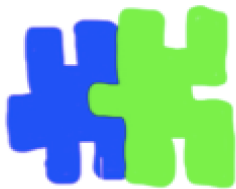
Friendly



Angry



Protective



Logical



Intelligent



Serious

LEARN  ZILLION

Core Lesson

How do Rikki's actions reveal his character?

By analyzing Rikki's actions, the reader can tell in the first passage that Rikki has a playful side, and he is very curious to find out about his new surroundings by "running and finding out". When he jumps on the boy's shoulder, Rikki's dad assures him that this is his way of making friends and that he is friendly.

In the second passage Rikki is angry and filled with rage when faced with the need to fight and protect. Rikki becomes serious and thoughtful and uses logic when problem solving to figure out his next move with the antagonist revealing his ability to demonstrate strength and courage.

When comparing these two different passages, we see that characters are complex and show us different traits depending on what they are facing.

Characterization

Complete the following chart. Refer to the lesson you just read through on character traits. List examples of actions and the corresponding traits.

Rikki's Actions	Character Trait
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	